Distributed Accounting Working Group (DAWG)

Draft: *Please direct comments to Bill Thigpen (bthigpen@arc.nasa.gov)*
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1   Working Group Chair(s)

The DAWG has two chairmen:

Tom Hacker	University of Michigan	hacker@umich.edu
Bill Thigpen	NASA Ames Research Center	bthigpen@arc.nasa.gov

2   Mailing List: accounts-wg@gridforum.org
Archives: http://www-unix.gridforum.org/mail_archive/accounts-wg/maillist.html

To subscribe to our email list, send email to majordomo@gridforum.org with the body "subscribe accounts-wg". Do not include the quotation marks. You must be a member of an email list to post on it.

If you subscribe to the working group list, please be sure to also subscribe to the general list. To do this send email to majordomo@gridforum.org with the body "subscribe grid-announce" as a single line in the message body.

3   Statement of Purpose

The Distributed Accounting Working Group is responsible for identifying needed account and accounting information, determining the needed mechanisms to pass this information, work with agencies (universities and corporations) to ensure the needs of all represented agencies are addressed and document this information to facilitate reference implementations of these specifications. Another purpose of this group is to provide a collaborative forum to facilitate joint efforts between organizations.

4   Description of Working Group

The DAWG was formed to identify and solve problems associated with account management across the Grid environment. The focus of the group is summarized in the four following statements:

Develop a straw-man grid accounting architecture

Define other interactions with grid components and existing systems minimizing the impact

Create a specification that could be used to build and evaluate distributed accounting prototypes

Identify agency/university/corporate concerns that must be addressed and recommend solutions. In particular, concerns include sharing resources in an open Grid environment, and managing Grid use of their resources.

A straw-man architecture or a vision document is required in this area to provide an overall goal for the group. Unlike other groups in the Gridforum, the DAWG does not have sample implementations, but is essential to allow the Grid to succeed.

The definition of interactions with other groups and existing systems is critical to the success of this group. The focus of this group in the short-term should be to provide the other groups within the forum with the information they need, so the accounting questions do not hold them up. Additionally, it is imperative that this group provides a clean and efficient interface to existing accounting systems, minimizing impacts to these current systems.

Specifications including schemas, protocols and APIs need to be identified and developed.

It is important that we keep in mind that the structure that we propose must work in the "real world". The requirements of varying organizations are widely distributed and at times in conflict with each other, so it is important that the specifications meet a wide base of needs and does not specify a way for internal accounting to be.

5 Goals and milestones

The immediate goals and milestones for this group are posted on the website. The long term goals are to address the items stated in the above paragraph.

6 Website: http://www.nas.nasa.gov/~thigpen/accounts-wg.html

This website is accessible directly or through the Gridforum website: http://www.gridforum.org.